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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
2 April 1971

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PAKISTAN

(Situation as of 1200 EST)

1. The US consul general in Dacca reports indications that effective Pakistani military control in East Pakistan is confined to a few major cities, with most of the countryside under the control of the Awami League. The cities of Dacca, Chittagong, Comilla, and Khulna appear to be controlled by the West Pakistanis, but military units seem to be under seige in Jessore or in the nearby military cantonment. A Pakistani general told the UK deputy high commissioner that Mymensingh and Sylhet districts were "strongholds of the East Bengal Regiment" (units of which have rebelled), but the West Pakistanis apparently control the town and airport at Sylhet. Faridpur city, about 40 miles west of Dacca, is reportedly in the hands of the Awami League and East Pakistani police. The northern towns of Rangpur, Dinajpur, and Saidpur are probably controlled by the West Pakistanis, with the surrounding countryside held by the East Pakistanis. The possibility is growing that the summer monsoon months will find the West Pakistanis marooned in strongpoints in the country and experiencing difficulty in obtaining supplies in those places that cannot be reached by air or sea.

2. The consul general also reports some indications that the West Pakistanis may be planning to starve the Bengali population into submission. Most food markets in Dacca have been destroyed by the army, apparently deliberately. East Pakistan's normal needs for food imports had

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already been increased by the devastating floods and cyclone of last autumn. Military control of the port cities of Chittagong and Khulna would permit blocking the movement of food supplies into East Pakistan, except for those that might come overland from India. The West Pakistan press, on the other hand, claims that food is being moved from Chittagong into the interior of East Pakistan.

3. The US consul general met with martial law administrator Tikka Khan today. The general, who had been reported killed in early fighting, gave little information but promised to be of help to the US community in East Pakistan.

4. [REDACTED] the government will probably continue to allow Pakistani Air Force planes and Pakistan International Airline flights to refuel there, despite Indian pressure to withdraw landing rights. Ceylon is receiving greatly needed foreign exchange earnings from Pakistan for landing rights and fuel supplies.

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5. The first UK flight taking British citizens out of East Pakistan left Dacca this morning, after Pakistani authorities processed the passengers and their luggage for three hours. An official in Islamabad has informed our ambassador, however, that there is "some problem" in granting diplomatic clearances for US flights into East Pakistan, the first of which was originally to have arrived in Dacca at 1430 today, Dacca time. The official said details would be provided to Ambassador Farland today at 1830 Islamabad time (0830 EST). The official went on to say that the Pakistan Government would be making alternative arrangements and mentioned the possibility of "ferrying those who want to leave" to Karachi. He denied reports that clearances had been granted for the second British flight and for French flights, and stated that the British high commissioner and the French ambassador were also being informed of "problems" in granting clearances. Meanwhile, the US consul general in Dacca has learned that the Soviet consul general has recommended the evacuation of the Soviet community from East Pakistan.

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